of a High School. Repeated representations had been made to the Government both in and out of the Assembly for raising the standard of the L. G. S. School. There were sufficient boys attending the school. Some of the Inspecting officers had recorded the opinion that the standard of the school should be raised. The Member, therefore, prayed that the standard of the school be raised to the Sixth Form and that the Fourth Form be opened in the current year itself.

The Member next said that certain irrigation tanks in the Midalam *pakuthi* stood in need of urgent repair. The tanks were Kadinjakulam, Perunnakulam, Alakulam and Chenkazhaneerkulam. The last two and the first were silted up. They should be deepened and provided with proper outlets for taking water to the paddy fields. A proper outlet should be provided for the Perunnakulam also to carry water to the fields. Similar irrigation works should also be undertaken in the *pakuthis* of Kizhumidalam, Kizhukulam, Killiyur and Nattalam which were also within the uncommanded area. At present, there were continued failures of crops owing to the want of proper water-supply. The Member prayed that the irrigation works mentioned above might be taken up early.

Lastly, the Member pointed out that, owing to the insufficiency of water in the Eraniel channel and branch channels, there was not a sufficient supply of water for the wet lands in the commanded area. Of the 13,474 acres of land included under the commanded area in the taluk, only an extent of 3,070 acres had been converted into wet lands, which was not even one-fourth of the total area. There was a growing complaint that the water was not uniformly distributed. The present system of water distribution adopted by the Irrigation Department was not satisfactory. The capacity of the channels should be increased. The rich and the influential people generally got a sufficient supply. The ryots were not found willing to convert more lands, owing to the unsatisfactory system of water-supply. To obviate the evils complained above, the Member suggested the creation of Irrigation Boards. The Boards should be empowered to appoint subordinates to see to the distribution of water in each block satisfactorily and also to realise the cost of employing such staff from the ryots concerned. If any one should be found unwilling to pay such dues, steps should be taken against him under the Revenue Recovery Regulation. It should be so arranged that in Irrigation matters both the Irrigation Department and the Revenue Department should consult the Boards. By creating such Boards and thereby ensuring an efficient system of water-supply, thousands of acres of paddy lands would be benefited in the Eraniel and Kalkulam taluks and the Government would be able to realise a substantial revenue therefrom. The Member, therefore, prayed that the capacity of the channels be increased and Irrigation Boards created to obviate the evils pointed out.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

145. Needs of the Trivandrum taluk.

Mr. M. K. Narayana Pillai, B. A., Bar-at-law (Member, Trivandrum taluk) said that he had represented last year the necessity for repairing the irrigation channel which took its source at Anathazhachira in Pallipuram and flowed into the Veli lake and that nothing appeared to have been done to restore the channel. The question was an important one and it affected the interests of many agriculturists. Last year, the flood in the channel did great damage to the crops. The Member, therefore, prayed that the repair of the channel might receive the early attention of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—An estimate for the work has been called for from the Chief Engineer and is awaited.

146. Needs of the Quilon taluk.

Mr. C. P. Kesava Pillai (Member, Quilon taluk) said that an English school for girls sanctioned for Quilon was, at the instance of Dr. Mitchell, ordered to be opened at Chengannur. The local Mission School at the Tuem Church was far away and was inconveniently situated. There was no doubt that, considering the number of girls now receiving instruction in the several Elementary schools in the

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